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E. J. Love

CIA Boss Defends Report on Energy

To The Denver Post:

YOUR EDITORIAL of April 24, "CIA Report a Cooked-Up Job," which referred to our recent report on the "International Energy Situation," has just come to my attention. I take considerable issue with your allegation that there was a "fraudulent air" about the analysis we presented to the President.

CIA has been involved in analyzing the strategic aspects of the world energy situation as part of its intelligence mission since its establishment some 30 years ago. Originally the concentration was on Communist nations, but as the world energy shortage and higher prices developed in the 1970s our analytical work in this area was extended to cover other parts of the world.

CIA's role in analyzing world energy trends is well known by U.S. industry, the trade press and international agencies concerned with this subject. Indeed, every other week the CIA issues a widely distributed, unclassified statistical survey, "International Oil Developments," through the Document Expediting Project of the Library of Congress.

The particular study to which you have referred was started over a year ago. The President did not know of it until a few days before he mentioned it at his press conference. That's why I take exception to your remark that "the CIA's warning of future oil shortages was a cooked-up job, even though its general thrust was correct."

I also cannot agree with your allegation that CIA "managed to inject" a "pessimistic tone" to its report for the dramatic purpose of a "sales pitch." Our analysts jealously protect their objectivity, and neither I nor they would manipulate a report to support a government policy. To do so would make a travesty of our entire analytical process, which is designed to provide the President and the policymakers of our government with objective and accurate analyses and estimates.

As for Mr. Carter's mentioning the report and its subsequent declassification and release, I believe the intelligence community should make more information available to the public on an unclassified basis. The public deserves to benefit from our work to the extent possible within the bounds of necessary secrecy.

The public should have as much objective information as possible on issues such as the energy situation, and we will continue to declassify such reports on a variety of subjects whenever possible.

STANSFIELD TURNER
Director of Central
Intelligence

Washington, D.C.